

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention by clarifying (a) that the portion of the product that is formed by the inner core is an inside segment of the product, and (b) that “the inner core ... is movable relative to the generally cylindrical portion of the core mold part”. These claims also recite “a cavity mold part that includes (i) a generally cylindrical portion”.

The Summary of the Invention portion of the Specification is amended to be consistent with the scope of the amended independent claims.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

The rejection of Claims 1-3 and 12-13 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cole is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons:

Cole’s manufactured product does not have two open ends, as required by these claims. Cole’s manufactured product has one open end and one closed end.

Independent Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2 and 3 are patentable over Cole for at least the reason of reciting a manufacturing process step of removing a portion of the closed end of a molded product that has one open end and one closed end.

Cole’s product is manufactured by a process that does not include a manufacturing step of removing a portion of a closed end of a molded product, as required by Claims 1-3.

Although the closed end of Cole’s manufactured product is eventually removed, such removal is accomplished during use of the manufactured product, not during the manufacture thereof.

Independent Claim 12 dependent Claims 13 and 14 are patentable over Cole for at least the following reasons. Cole does not describe manufacturing means for removing at least a portion of the closed end of the molded plastic product after the molded product has been removed from the core mold part to provide a manufactured hollow plastic product with two open ends and a substantially tubular section.

The removal of a portion of a closed end of Cole’s molded product is not accomplished by manufacturing means, as required by Claims 12-14, but rather by hand removal of the tear strip 26.

The Examiner has asserted that “a manufacturing step for removing a portion is not necessarily claimed”. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, and submit that inasmuch as the step (g) of “removing at least a portion of the closed end ...”, is recited as a step of a “process of manufacturing a hollow plastic product with two open ends ...”, a manufacturing step for removing at least a portion of the closed end is concisely claimed.

Dependent Claims 3 and 14 are also patentable for the same reasons as set forth below for the allowance of independent Claims 4 and 15.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §103

The rejection of Claims 4, 14 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons:

Claims 4 and 15 are patentable over Cole for at least the reason of reciting

- a cavity mold part that includes a generally cylindrical portion for forming at least an outside segment of a substantially tubular section of a molded hollow plastic product; and
- a core mold part that includes both
 - (i) a generally cylindrical portion for forming at least an inside segment of a substantially tubular section of the product and
 - (ii) an inner core that is movable relative to the generally cylindrical portion of the core mold part for forming the inside segment of the product lying inside the thread when the inner core is protracted.

Cole’s product has two substantially tubular sections, an outer tubular section (cylindrical side portion 40) and an inner tubular section (plug 14), as shown in FIG. 1.

The outside segment of the outer tubular section 40 is formed by a cavity mold part 103, 105, 107; and the inside segment of the outer tubular section 40 is formed by an outer core mold part 119. No inside segment of the outer tubular section 40 is formed by the inner core mold part 111 that is movable relative to the outer core mold part 119, as required by Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15.

The outside segment of the inner tubular section 14 is formed by the outer core mold part 119; and the inside segment of the inner tubular section 14 is formed by an inner core mold part 111. No inside segment of the inner tubular section 14 is formed by the outer core mold part 119 that is movable relative to the inner core mold part 111, as required by Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15; and no outside segment of the inner tubular section 14 is formed by the cavity mold part 103, 105, 107, as further required by Claims 3, 4, 14 and 15.

Claim 14 is also patentable over Cole for at least the same reasons as set forth above for the allowance of Claim 12, upon which Claim 14 depends.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-4 and 12-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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